

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, cancel claims 8-13 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A coated membrane for assessing the invasive capacity of a cell comprising:
  - a) a porous membrane; and
  - b) a composition on a surface of said membrane, said composition comprising a reconstituted and aggregated extracellular basement membrane matrix derived from Englebreth-Holm-Swarm mouse tumor, a pH 7.8 to 8.2 buffer and a polyol.
2. (Previously Presented) The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said porous membrane is a polymer.
3. (Previously Presented) The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of a sugar, glycol and polymers and copolymers thereof.
4. (Previously Presented) The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said buffer comprises an aminoalcohol.
5. (Previously Presented) The coated membrane of Claim 1 further comprising a salt.
6. (Previously Presented) The coated membrane of Claim 1 which has been dried.
7. (Currently Amended) A coated membrane for assessing the invasive capacity of a cell comprising:
  - a) a polyethyleneterephthalate porous membrane; and
  - b) a composition on a surface of said membrane, said composition comprising a reconstituted and aggregated extracellular basement membrane matrix derived from Englebreth-Holm-Swarm mouse tumor, a pH 7.8-8.2 buffer comprising tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane, salt and sucrose.

Claims 8-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A composition comprising a reconstituted aggregated extracellular matrix derived from a basement membrane of the Englebreth-Holm-Swarm mouse tumor, a pH 7.8-8.2 buffer comprising tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane, salt and sucrose.

15. (New) The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said reconstituted and aggregated extracellular basement membrane matrix is an aggregated polymerized extracellular matrix.

16. (New) An assembly for assessing the invasive capacity of a cell comprising:

- a) a tissue culture plate having a well
- b) an insert for said plate, said insert having a deck portion having an opening defined by a wall through said deck, said wall dimensioned to be received in said well; and
- c) the coated membrane of Claim 1 providing a bottom wall for said opening.

17. (New) The assembly of Claim 16 further comprising a lid dimensioned to sealingly fit over said insert.

18. (New) The assembly of Claim 16 further comprising a feeder tray dimensioned to receive said insert.

19. (New) A method for preparing a membrane of Claim 1 for assessment of the invasive potential of a cell comprising:

- a) preparing a solution of reconstituted extracellular matrix from the EnglebrethHolm-Swarm mouse tumor in a pH 7.8-8.2 buffer containing sucrose;
  - b) applying said solution to a surface of a porous membrane to give a coated membrane;
- and
- c) inducing aggregation of components of said solution to give an aggregated coating on said membrane.

20. (New) The method of Claim 19 wherein said solution further comprises a salt.
21. (New) The method of Claim 19 further comprising stabilizing said aggregate coating on said membrane.